



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 142

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1996

No. 86

## Senate

The Senate met at 11:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Lord, the divine Potter of our lives, our days are in Your hands. Shape the clay as You have planned. May the day work out exactly as You have arranged it for Your glory and our growth. We say with the psalmist, "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."—Psalm 40:8. We long to know what is best for our Nation. Now at the beginning of another day, we commit to You the challenges and decisions that are ahead of us. We desire to glorify You, so show us what You desire. With inspired intentionality, we put our relationship with You first and make our primary goal what is best for our Nation.

This morning, gracious Lord, we thank You for the newly elected Republican leadership. We ask Your special blessing to be upon TRENT LOTT and DON NICKLES as they work together closely with TOM DASCHLE and WENDELL FORD and the leadership of both parties to seek Your glory and to do Your will.

We pray this prayer in the name of the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The new majority leader, the able Senator TRENT LOTT from Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President. We appreciate your leadership and all that you do for your State and for our country.

### A DAY ALL SENATORS WILL REMEMBER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, yesterday was a day of ceremony and tribute in the Senate. It was a day of testimonials, emotional farewells, and I think really a high point for this institution in the years that I have been here, because in a very bipartisan way, we all talked about the institution of the Senate and what it means to us as individuals, the uniqueness of how it operates, and what it means for our country.

Obviously, the Republican Members were touched by the moment that we saw our leader of so many years, Bob Dole, exit the Chamber. But I also was struck by the fact that the Democratic leadership—in fact, all of our colleagues on that side of the aisle—showed emotion and felt the specialness of that moment, as was exhibited by the outstanding remarks of the distinguished Democratic leader who sits here today.

It was a day that all Senators will remember, just as we will always remember the leadership of Bob Dole.

Today, the Senate returns to business, and I am honored and humbled to stand here as the Senate majority leader. It is also a pleasure to have with me in our leadership team the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma, Senator NICKLES, who will serve as the assistant majority leader, the whip. I know that he will do a great job, and I look forward to working with him and us working together as a team with the Democratic leadership. We have already met with their entire leadership team, and I think we are off to a very positive start.

Also, I want to, again, refer to my distinguished colleague from Mississippi. We have stood together now through 23½ years in the Congress. He is truly a great leader for our State and for our country. He sort of blazed the trail in our State for a Republican

Party that used to meet in a very small room with room left over. He was the first Senator who was elected as a Republican from our State of Mississippi. So he has set an example for all of us. He is an important part of a team for our State that I will always enjoy working with. He will continue as the chairman of our conference.

He will be joined by the secretary of the conference, CONNIE MACK of Florida, and the newly elected chairman of the policy committee, Senator CRAIG of Idaho.

Just as Senator Dole did yesterday in his final speech from this podium, I begin my first remarks as majority leader by thanking those to whom I am indebted for the privilege of serving in the Senate.

Foremost among those, other than my beloved Mississippi constituents, are the members of my family. People who know me best know that my highest priority on this Earth is my family. I love my work in the Senate, but I will always give the highest priority to my family. To my parents, who instilled the values which still guide my life, and my wife and our two children, Tricia, Chet, and Tyler, they have always been patient and understanding as I pursued public service. They have been my inspiration. And they are today.

I thank the people of Mississippi for honoring me with their trust each time I have asked for it. And, of course, I thank my Republican colleagues for allowing me to serve in a role that has been filled by so many giants in the Senate in the past.

I am the first majority leader in history from my State of Mississippi, a poor State but a State that is struggling to pull itself up and move forward. It is a State that has gone from the bottom rung of every economic indicator to now being identified as one

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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